

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL

CITY OF AMARILLO

On this day of May 29, 2012, the Animal Control Board of the City of Amarillo, Texas, held a regular quarterly scheduled public meeting at City Hall, Commissioner's Chambers, at 6:00 p.m., with the following members in attendance:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	NO. MEETING HELD 2012	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
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Mrs. Tracy Dougherty	No	2	2
Ms. Sunny H. Campbell	Yes	2	2
Ms. Brooke Prescott	Yes	1	1
Mrs. Natalie Harrison	No	2	2
Mr. Benjamin Pollard	Yes	2	2

NON-VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT TODAY	MO. MEETING HELD 2012	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
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Mike McGee, Director Animal Control	Yes	2	2
Shannon Barlow, Asst. Director Animal Control	Yes	2	2
Vicki L. Covey, Division Director of Community Services	Yes	1	1
Deree Duke, Director Environmental Health	Yes	2	2

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rose Marie Lomeli, Recording Secretary, Allison Gray

Also, in attendance were the following:

Jena McFall, Executive Director Amarillo-Panhandle Humane Society, Robin Cupell, Texas Panhandle Pet Savers, Dr. Matt Richardson, Director Public Health Dr. Roger Smalligan, Public Health Authority, Marcus Norris, City Attorney

Sunny Hodge-Campbell, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and established the quorum.

ITEM 1: Approval of Minutes Sunny Hodge-Campbell called for a motion for approval of minutes on February 7, 2012. Motion made by Benjamin Pollard, seconded by Brooke Prescott.

ITEM 2: Department Update by Animal Control Staff.

Shannon Barlow, Assistant Director of Animal Control updated the board on the successful Adopt-a-Thon hosted by the Humane Society in April. She also reported from April 2011: 15% decrease in euthanasia, 23% decrease in return to owner dispositions, 30% decrease in reclaims, and a 12% reduction in bites. Calls for service continue to rise. A slight increase in foster homes for the Humane Society animals has been seen.

Mike McGee, Director Animal Control, spoke to board members about the future plans for a dog park. Indications are for a start-up date in 2013 when funds allow.

ITEM 3: Update by Executive Director of the Amarillo Humane Society.

Jena McFall, Executive Director of the Humane Society, updated the board on changes at the Humane Society under her direction since March 2012. Changes include: Operational hours until 7:00pm, no fees to rescue organizations to take animals, the implementation of a dog trainer, and the re-work of offsite adoption programs to include more public awareness of spaying and neutering. Ms. McFall reported on a 90% success rate on adoption thru the local radio stations and 134 adoptions for April 2012.

Mike McGee also briefed the board on the upcoming June 11, 2012 National No-Kill Day event. Humane Society adoptions and micro-chips will be half price and no euthanasia will be conducted in observation of the event

ITEM 4: Presentation and Discussion of a proposal from the Texas Panhandle Pet Savers for a Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) Program.

Robin Cupell of Texas Panhandle Pet Savers addressed the board with a letter from the Humane Society of the United States in support of a TNR program similar to the one previously suggested by TPPS. It praised the implementation of other cities using the TNR program and the use of volunteers to maintain the feeding stations away from public areas. Ms. Cupell said the TNR program has been in use in other cities for more than a decade, but could not give hard data on any decrease in feral cat activity in those areas. She also talked about "Targeted TNR" areas with the implementation of a TNR program and focusing on special areas by zip code. Ms. Cupell was questioned by ACB member Brook Prescott about costs associated with the start-up of a TNR program. Ms. Cupell said the monies are mostly grants and are around \$100,000.

ITEM 5: Public Board of Health Recommendation to Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR).
Dr. Matt Richardson, Director of Public Health and member of the Public Board of Health,

submitted a memo from the Public Board of Health declining the offer of a TNR program due to rabies cases in Potter/Randall counties. He emphasized key points in the memo about a lack of reduction in feral cat colonies and a concern about future vaccinations to prevent zoonotic concerns of rabies. Dr. Richardson ended his report with a reminder to the board that the effective fatality rate of rabies to humans is 100 percent.

Deree Duke, Director of Environmental Health, reported to the board about the extensive amount of published research in an effort to make educated decisions about the implementation of a TNR program in the City of Amarillo. She also pointed out other local and federal predatory laws and concerns about have feral cat activity.

Mike McGee, Director of Animal Control, spoke to the board about feral cats in Amarillo. Ms. Hodge-Campbell asked Mr. McGee whether he believed Amarillo has a feral cat problem, to which he answered, "yes ma'am I do." He said the Animal Control Department has a plan to trap and remove cats in the problem areas.

Dr. Smalligan, local practicing physician and the Public Health Authority for the Potter/Randall Public Board of Health, commented that the TNR program sounded like a good idea, and according to his research it has been effective in small, controlled areas, but that given the environment of Amarillo, would not support it.

Item 6. Public Forum

Dr. Eades, 3208 S. Ong, local practicing physician(OBGYN) addressed the board about ethical issues and his smart phone research about some statistics concerning feral cats in other cities. He goes on to discuss antibodies with childhood chicken pox and the rabies vaccine we currently use. He believes we should be cautioned about scaring people about zoonotic concerns. He emphasized the fact that HSUS sent a letter to Amarillo endorsing the use of a TNR program.

Shea White, 4212 S.W. 12th, a citizen in the audience, posed several questions about who traps, funds, and who is in charge of a TNR project. Robin Cupell of TPPS briefly explained to Ms. White, the volunteers for TPPS would be running the TNR activities. Ms. White inquired about where the cats would be released back to and Ms. Cupell said they are released where they were caught.

Jena McFall, Executive Director of the Humane Society, asked about the ethical side of matter- what happens when the cats get feline leukemia and panleukopenia (feline distemper). Ms. Cupell said about 1 percent are euthanized due to disease.

Board Member, Sunny Hodge-Campbell, confirmed with Ms. Cupell about who is responsible for trapping and releasing cats. TPPS volunteers would be responsible for trapping, releasing, and insuring the animal is in fact a feral cat and not a domestic pet belonging to an owner. Hodge-Campbell also asked Ms. Cupell if she thought Amarillo would support such a program. Ms. Cupell did not really know. But she is hopeful through education, to gain the support.

ITEM 7. Consider a Recommendation Regarding the Trap Neuter Release Program

After much discussion, Animal Control Board member Benjamin Pollard made a motion that the ACB recommend to the City Commission to follow the recommendation by the Public Board of

Health on the TNR program. Motion was seconded by Brook Prescott. Motion carried by a vote of 3-0.

Sunny Hodge-Campbell adjourned the meeting, at 7:25 the next meeting will be held August 28, 2012.

Sunny Hodge-Campbell, Board Member

Rose Marie Lomeli, Secretary of
Animal Control Board